YALE LEADING CHINA TOWARD THE HIGHER EDUCATION

Great University at Changsha Maintained by Alumni and Model for Similar Government Institution

Remission of Boxer Indemnity Vital Factor in Plan—Chinese Architecture Followed in Buildings

By HARRY ESTY DOUNCE.

NO doubt all Harvard men have known moments when they would have been glad to see Yale in China. They can have that pleasure by visiting Changsha, in the province of Hu-nan. It is a trifling jaunt of some 600 miles up the Canton-Hankow Railroad from Canton, or 800 miles westward from Shanghai by the great yellow Yang-tse River.

The outgrowth of a missionary enterprise, Changsha Yale College and Hospital, best known to New Haven as Yale-in-China and to its Chinese students as Ya-li, is now threefold: mission, college, medical school. It is interesting as a conspicuously successful example of the fruits of the Western, in this case the American, university movement in the East.

Interesting also, and somewhat in this connection, is the youthful Tsing-Hua University at Pekin, which aspires and plans to become the largest institution for the higher learning in all China. The connection is that the same New York firm of architects is building both institutions, and that it was their work at Changsha which attracted the attention of the Pekin authorities and won them the second commission.

Tsing-Hua will stand as a monument to that American Chinese friendship which our lately announced agreement with Japan concerning China appears somewhat to have strained. The money that set the Pekin University project going was the American refund of about half our original part of the Boxer uprising indemnity, $10,-785,286.12.

This is the money with which Tsing-Hua has been founded. The United States made diplomatic efforts to have the other Powers follow its example and refund excess compensation. The efforts came to nothing; we are the only one of the six nations whose troops relieved the beleaguered legations garrison at Pekin to refuse to meet China under the terms of that willy nilly protocol of more money than we had a right to demand.

The grateful Chinese proposed to spend the sum refunded in sending students for education in the United States. They began to do it; but as the thing worked out it was found that comparatively few young Chinese received at home a preparation to qualify them for entrance in American universities and colleges. The plan was then amended to include the establishment of a high school with American teachers. Now China means to carry through the entire educational course at home. Tsing-Hua when completed will comprise preparatory school, college and university all in one.

The president of Tsing-Hua to Americans is Y. T. Tsur, A. B. (Yale, '99), M. A. (Wisconsin). To his countrymen he is Tsur Ye-Tsung. This young man, who happens also to be a vice-president of Yale-in-China, is not yet 30, and he is in his own person the planner, promoter and pilot of the whole Tsing-Hua university conception.

"Babes and sucklings indeed!" said Henry Killam Murphy of Murphy & Dana, the architects in question, to an idle remark from THE SUN man. "You wait until you've talked with one of those young Chinese intellectuals and felt him twist you around his finger and bring you to his point of view without your being aware that he was doing it. Then you'll revise your ideas. One of them has recently gone back to join the staff of Changsha-Yale Hospital. He knows so much more than I do that it's pathetic."

Mr. Murphy is Yale '99. His partner, Mr. Dana, is Harvard, but as he holds a degree from Yale art school it is all right.

History of Yale-in-China.

Reverting now for a moment to Yale-in-China: In a short history of the institution Dr. Edward H. Hume, physician in charge of the hospital, has written:

"Inspired in part by the activity in northern India of an Oxford-Cambridge mission, graduates of Yale University conceived the idea in 1900 of undertaking an outreaching work in China.

"After two years of conference with older men and a good deal of groundwork, the first appointee of the newly formed Yale society sailed for China in 1902. * * * The summer of 1903 saw two significant steps taken. The first was the acceptance of the invitation to locate the Yale work at Changsha.

"The second important step was the decision to make of the Yale work a distinctively educational movement * * * that would supplement the work of the missionary societies by establishing a college which would be a central institution of higher learning for the province rather than by adding one more to the number of missions doing evangelistic work.

"Reference to the plans of the proposed buildings will show a further attempt to develop Chinese relations. The Yale committee believes that every possible step should be taken to conserve the architectural heritage of old China, blending it with the structural requirements that the modern world makes to-day."

Of this architectural problem, intensely interesting to his profession, Mr. Murphy has written:

"A great deal of study was devoted to the choice of an architectural style for the Yale-in-China group; and the decision to use a modern adaptation of the traditional Chinese style was made only after the most careful consideration of the objections to it raised by some of the friends of the institution.

Must Be Massive Below.

"The attempts of other Oriental colleges to use the Chinese style had not proved entirely convincing—usually because they had not succeeded in giving to the lower portions of the buildings a sufficiently Chinese look to be in harmony with the strongly defined Chinese character of the roofs, in which they had centred their interest.

"While it is true that the most marked characteristic of Chinese architecture lies in the upturned corners of the eaves and in the combination of gable and eaves at the ends of the buildings, these two features alone are not sufficient to make a building really Chinese architecturally. There must be a certain massiveness in the lower story—best exemplified in the wonderful great gateways which are such an impressive feature of the larger cities of China—and an adherence to the Chinese forms in such details as the untapered columns, free from cap or base, which contribute so much to the austere dignity of the Chinese buildings.

"To show the Chinese that it is possible in a group of buildings embodying the most modern ideas in plan and in construction to preserve their own architectural heritage—this has seemed to us a worthy mission, to be added to the great educational, medical and religious missions of the Yale movement.

"The site of the new buildings—a tract of thirty acres about half a mile outside the northerly city gate of Changsha—is in striking contrast to the present crowded quarters in the midst of the teeming city. Here, on fairly high land, we have laid out a spacious college campus overlooking the river to the west and surrounded by fine open country. To the south of the college group, with the great hospital centring on its transverse axis, is the medical group, while to the west is the residential group of faculty houses, placed with reference to the future westerly approach along the main longitudinal axis of the college campus.

Problem of Building.

"When we were ready actually to start on the construction it soon became evident that we had a tremendous task before us in undertaking with Chinese labor and material throughout the substantial and permanent type of construction which the committee had instructed us to produce. None of the buildings I saw in China would be considered even passable for a college in America. The materials were of poor quality, poorly combined, and accuracy seemed unknown. One is constantly met in China with the remark that 'this is the way we build here.'

"In the Yale work at Changsha we have gone on the theory that there were in the local conditions no really insuperable obstacles to good construction, and that the universal failure to obtain it was due to the universal failure to provide for really adequate supervision.

"By sending a first rate general superintendent from New York, Stanley Wilson, it has been insured that every stroke of work should be done under the eye of an expert supervising architect; and though things have gone more slowly than we had hoped, the actual buildings that are being produced are splendid.

"In a letter I received last fall from Mr. Wilson he says: 'I have been looking at the work in Shanghai, and I confess most modestly that I have not seen anything that can touch the quality of work we are doing at Changsha. Our work is far above anything I have seen anywhere in China.'

"All through China," Mr. Murphy continues, "I found great interest in the Yale building projects at Changsha. The Chinese are a people very ready to be told how they should do things of this sort; and it is pathetic that so much of the European and American building in China, to which the Chinese look so eagerly for instruction, should be so poor both in design and execution.

"At Pekin during my consultation with the Tsing-Hua college authorities I found the most intense interest in the Yale experiment—building in the new way, they called it—and the success that is being achieved at Changsha is all the more pleasing to those who have labored for it, through the fact that the eyes of China are so keenly on Ya-li."

Because of this interest the firm of Murphy & Dana has become something of a specialist in universities for China and Japan. Several other commissions have resulted from it. Only at Changsha, however, has Mr. Murphy found the native authorities receptive to the architectural idea of following the native style. In fact, Oriental modernism has seemed rather disposed to a physical as well as an intellectual imitation when copying a Western institution.

For Tsing-Hua the authorities instructed the architects to plan the group of buildings as they would on a like site anywhere else, without special reference to China. The Italian style was decided on. For St. Paul's, in Tokio, Western architecture was specified, and the style chosen is English collegian Gothic.

Yale-in-China is situated at the heart of a central province with a population of 22,000,000. The old city of Changsha itself numbers 200,000. It is "the capital of the province and a noted centre of Chinese culture, pride, officialdom and wealth." Hence the tremendous field, both for a modern well appointed hospital with its medical school and for a general college.

The student body a year ago, exclusive of the medical students and nursing school pupils, numbered about 200. Since then the number has increased. The plan contemplates a body of at least 800. Counting "in" and "out" patients and indoor and outdoor treatment the hospital and staff annually care for 34,000 cases.

The support of the institution is provided by Yale alumni subscriptions. Of the organization in America, with headquarters at 5 White Hall, Yale University, Clarence H. Kelsey, '78, is president, Mr. Tsur vice-president, Amos P. Wilder, '84, treasurer and executive secretary. Many of the best known names on Yale's alumni roll are to be found on the lists of the executive committee, the council and the medical advisory board.

Student life at Yale-in-China has taken on a decidedly Occidental color. In athletics baseball is popular and so is tennis, but the football played is "soccer"; the Chinese of Hu-nan are not sufficiently robust to take to American football, and some of their own native ball games are played with the feet, so that "soccer" technic comes to them naturally.

Mr. Murphy says the average China-man of the region is open to a good deal of physical improvement, being inclined to flat chest, round shoulders and nearsightedness. Not until he got as far north as Pekin did the architect begin to encounter the taller and huskier types of the northern Mongol peoples. The Chinese authorities themselves recognize the need of athletics and they foster them.

Yale-in-China has not been without alarums and excursions during the revolutionary turmoil of the last few years. Always, however, "the situation has been taken in hand" before the institution suffered harm.

The photographs of the buildings reproduced herewith, are deceptive as to their size, because of the Chinese architecture and the want of familiar objects in the picture for comparison. The chapel, which looks like a small suburban cottage to the American eye, really has a capacity of several hundred students.

As for Tsing-Hua University at Pekin (the name, by the way, is pronounced Tching-Wah, as well as it can be rendered) the birdseye view reproduced from the architect's drawing shows the group of buildings as they will look complete; and even though political vicissitudes and financial handicaps do not interfere, this view will not be realized for a long time to come.

The site was once the estate of a line of Manchu princes. The one obtaining seventy-five years ago built him a sumptuous villa round about which he cast an extensive garden, dotted with lotus ponds and entwined by meandering artificial streams. At the time of the revolution his family was dispossessed and the estate confiscated. The original buildings, called the Yamen, are gems of Chinese architecture, and they are retained to serve as the social centre for the new university.

They appear in the birdseye view at the centre of the right hand portion of the campus—that part to the right of the bend in the foreground bordering stream. It is this portion on which the modern buildings thus far have been or are being erected.

The rest of the campus exhibited so many lotus ponds that a lot of them have had to be filled up; but several of the largest are preserved. Largest of all is the one that surrounds an island at the centre. On the island will be the library of the university, approached by four bridges. These bridges and all others and much of the stone detail about the buildings have been taken from the former summer palace at Pekin, and are masterpieces of Chinese stone carving.

Before Murphy & Dana were commissioned the university authorities had experimented with an Austrian architect, who "sold" them very badly. Some of his buildings were erected and began to disintegrate almost before the finishing touches. It now seems probable that all but one will eventually be discarded and razed; that one, Mr. Murphy says, it well enough built so that he is afraid it will have to stand atrocious architecturally though it is.

Student Body of 3,000.

Tsing-Hua will have a student body of 3,000. Among the buildings now in service and contemplated are a high school group, a middle school group, schools of Chinese classics, architecture, arts and letters, education, law and journalism, music, commerce, engineering, agriculture and forestry, and physical, chemical and biological and medical laboratories, a school of medicine and dentistry, a power house, a dormitory with a cooperative store, several dining halls, the auditorium, the library, the university press building, an alumni hall, an administration building, an observatory and a gymnasium with an athletic field.

"That gym," says Mr. Murphy, "is a whale." It is about as large as any in the world.

These are the requirements for admission into the middle school, which is the lowest grade of this complete alma mater:

The applicant must be from 11 to 13 years old.

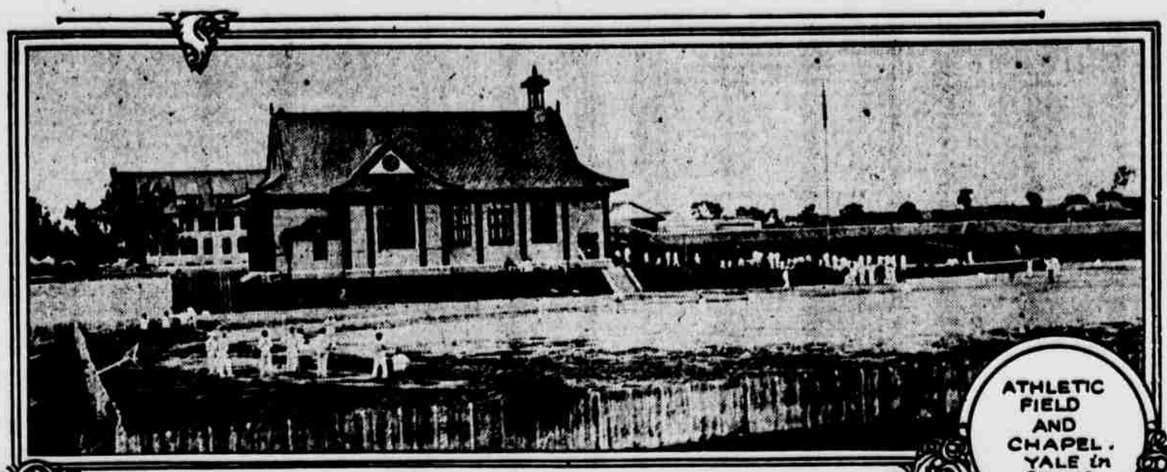
He must have a sound body.

He must have no objectionable habits.

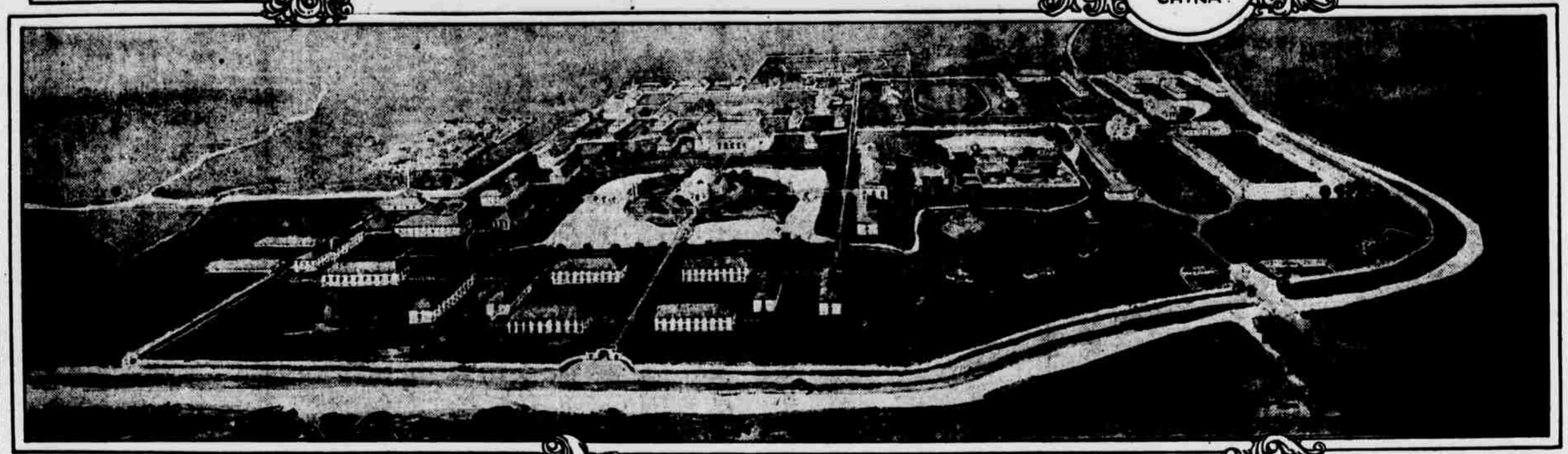
He must be fairly acquainted with the elements of Chinese history, geography and literature.

He must be able to read an English second reader, and to work as far as simple fractions in arithmetic.

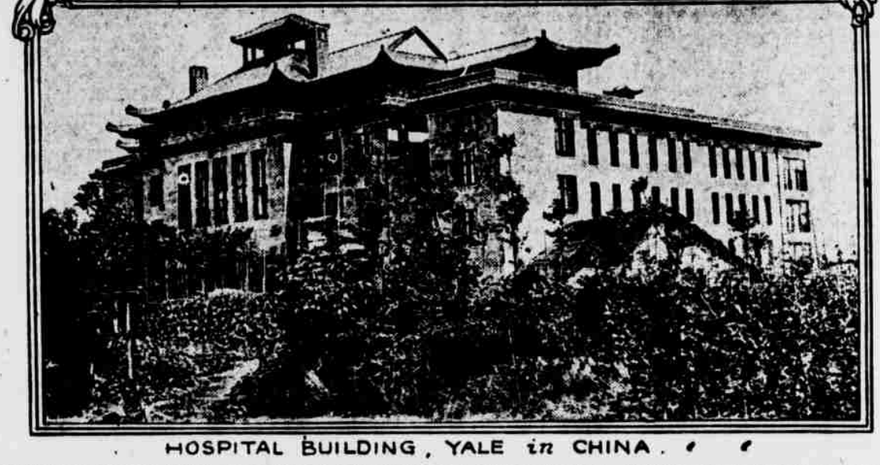
Candidates are examined by the commissioners of education in the various provinces, the number each province may send being based on the proportion of the Boxer indemnity it pays.



ATHLETIC FIELD AND CHAPEL, YALE in CHINA.



TSING-HUA UNIVERSITY, PEKING, AS IT WILL LOOK COMPLETED.



HOSPITAL BUILDING, YALE in CHINA.

FAR EAST OFFERS AMERICA ITS GREATEST TRADE CHANCE NOW

By GEO. ED. SMITH.
President of the American Manufacturers Export Association.

THE removal of doubt as to the attitude of Japan toward the United States and the consummation of an agreement upholding the principle of the "open door" in China, as announced by Secretary of State Lansing, should prove to be the signal for awakening American business men to the existence of an opportunity which for the most part they have long overlooked. Not only does the result of Viscount Ishii's special mission to America clear the situation in a diplomatic and military sense, but it opens up a broad vista of commercial opportunities, the developments of which will further strengthen our friendship with Japan and increase our own national prosperity.

That the Japanese have perceived the chance for themselves and are losing no time in attempting to seize it is indicated by the projected visit here, on the heels of Viscount Ishii's departure, of an important economic mission appointed by the Emperor of Japan and including in its personnel leaders of Japanese commerce and finance. Now that our Government has shown the foresight and good judgment to open the way American business men, especially manufacturers and exporters, should be no less active than the Japanese in their efforts to cultivate the spirit of cooperation between the leading nations of the East and the West.

The example of commercial statesmanship shown so far only by a handful of leaders—"big" manufacturers and exporters for the most part whose beliefs were a natural result of intimate experience with foreign trade—should be followed by the small factory owners as well. It should be understood by everybody that our national prosperity depends very largely upon foreign trade; that Asia is becoming one of the great markets, and that the disposal of our wares will be facilitated by the development of a cordial understanding with the nation whose geographical position has given her, in the words of Secretary Lansing, certain "special interests" that we are bound to respect.

America in the Lead.

Our new place in the international situation is due in large part to the fortunes of war. In the late spring of 1915, for example, a speaker on the floor of the Imperial Reichstag in Berlin uttered what he declared to be a warning to Great Britain. He asserted that if Great Britain and Germany should become deadlocked in war and the fighting should be prolonged sufficiently to put Europe definitely in debt to the United States, the commercial and financial supremacy which Great Britain held, and which Germany desired; would escape from both and move westward over the Atlantic to the United States.

The course of events since then has been rapid. It is now evident that the extent to which the United States has succeeded in replacing Great Britain, France and Germany as the senior creditor nation marks the degree to which conditions before the war cannot be restored.

This radical change is not a temporary adjustment. The channels of world commerce have been permanently shifted. America will be able to retain her control over them only so surely as she rises to the opportunity.

In this worldwide revolution in commerce and finance that is being wrought by the war, two developments are going forward hand in hand; the rise of the United States in the markets of the world is being paralleled in the Far East by Japan. She has been enormously benefited by her comparative immunity to the restrictive influence of submarine warfare. Further, Japan has proved to be an important source of supply for Russia.

Japan, therefore, is enjoying a prosperity which she had never known before. Although a belligerent she has been enjoying the prosperity of a neutral without the economic hardships under which the other European belligerents are laboring.

Trade With Japan Grows.

In the first five months of the present year, for instance, imports into Japan aggregated 362,000,000 yen and exports 593,000,000 yen, showing a balance of trade in favor of Japan amounting to 231,000,000 yen, an increase of more than 320 per cent. over the export surplus of the first five months of the preceding year. Only two years ago, taking the figures for the corresponding period of 1915, Japan's balance of trade was on the other side of the ledger. In the five months of that year her exports were only 244,000,000 yen, or 10,000,000 yen less than her imports.

The growth of United States imports from Japan has carried the total figures not only beyond any previous record, but to a point far in excess of the present figures of Great Britain. At the present time the American monthly average of imports from Japan is approximately $16,700,000, as against a British average of imports from Japan of only $7,000,000. The total exports of the United States to Japan for the nine months ended March 31 last amounted to about $95,000,000, as compared with not quite $49,000,000 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

American imports from Japan still maintain their lead over exports. In fact, they are steadily increasing, the total for the nine months amounting to more than $150,000,000, as compared with about $102,000,000 in the corresponding months of the previous year.

The value of the aggregate export trade of the United States with all Asia for the same months was slightly in excess of $300,400,000. Munitions of war sent by way of Vladivostok to Russia account for not quite $120,-000,000 of this amount. Consequently Asiatic export trade proper was represented by a value of $181,000,000 approximately, or nearly three times the value of the same trade in the first nine months of the fiscal year of 1915.

Great Far Eastern Markets.

It has been pointed out that this total is only $3,000,000 less than the value of the exports of the United States to all Latin America for the same period. For comparative purposes, in order to realize what this trade growth means, it is well to be reminded that in 1913 (the last full calendar year before the war) the exports of the United States to Argentina had already exceeded the combined exports of Great Britain and Germany to Argentina.

The American business man and the banker alike are realizing as they never did in the past how thoroughly foreign trade, in order to be permanently beneficial to the nations sharing in it, must be an exchange of commodities and not merely the export of a comparatively surplus product not needed in a domestic market. It is for this reason that America finds cause for pride not only in the tremendous growth of her exports but in the volume of the imports coming from the Far East and particularly from Japan. From matches to dolls, Japan is successfully bidding for a diversified export of manufactures to the United States to take the place of business which had been regarded as peculiarly the property of the Central Empires.

American manufacturers and merchants are looking for great markets in the Far East. We know now that Asia is awake and that as she shakes off the lethargy of centuries under Western leadership she may be destined to become one of America's largest customers.

It is easy to see that in the readjustment of the world's commerce by reason of the war Manila might become a great supply depot for the Far East, rivalling and in many respects outstripping the facilities of Hongkong. Within a steaming radius of 2,000 miles from Manila live more than one-third of the population of the entire world. For any American commercial expansion in Asia, resulting from the development of cordial trade relations with Japan Manila is the American port most convenient.

Because American goods pay no duty in the Philippines American exporters have at least one great advantage over their European competitors. Manila's new dock and warehouse facilities make conditions favorable for the reception and reshipment of merchandise. Hongkong and Singapore are scarcely more than ports of call and distributing ports.

With the development of the Philippines the shipments of copra, timber, hemp, tobacco, sugar, rubber, cacao and coffee provide a commodity exchange in the United States that would enable Americans to obtain and keep constantly on hand large stocks of manufactured goods in Manila.

America to Finance Europe.

The weakening of the resources of all European belligerent Powers is the primary reason why American and Japanese commerce and finance will find their future in international trade. The enormous new indebtedness of Great Britain, France and Russia has been accentuated by the mass of credits advanced to them by the United States. The financial situation in the Central Empires seems to be far more acute.

In 1915 Vice-Chancellor Helfferich undertook to show why Germany could not be exhausted financially. He contended that the Imperial German Government would face no financial problem of an insoluble character until the amount that could be raised by a new internal loan would be only sufficient to provide the interest on existing debt and leaving nothing over for the conduct of the Government. He set this theoretical point of financial exhaustion at 100,000,000,000 marks. That was in 1915.

On October 18, 1917, the seventh German war loan was successfully closed. According to meagre advices by way of Amsterdam the seventh loan amounted to 12,430,000,000 marks, not including subscriptions from the front. The total amount of the seven German war loans, according to this authority, is 72,411,000,000 marks, which in itself is an approach toward the 100,000,000,000 mark that will at least have a tremendous bearing upon the ability of Germany to contend for the recovery of Asiatic trade fields in which the United States and Japan are now newly engaged.

As a matter of fact, after the war there is little question that Europe will not be in a position for some time to listen to proposals for financing foreign fields. Indeed, it is more likely that the rapidly accumulated stock of free gold here will have to be called on for some of Europe's own needs. And the United States is and will be in a position to do as much of this financing as she can reduce to profitable terms.

Chance for American Business.

Under the Federal Reserve act the United States has been enabled to build up the commerce naturally resultant from foreign financing. The act gave American banks for the first time the legal right to deal in acceptances as such. The countries which used to rely upon Europe for financing are bound to look to the United States because of the manner in which international trade follows the international banker. This development is undoubtedly one of the factors that will decide what percentage of the new trade the United States will be able to hold.

Another factor determining the future of the United States in world commerce is the development of selling agencies of a character strong enough to compete with the old time British and German agencies. One of the most effective devices for this purpose is provided in the so-called Webb-Pomerene bill to permit combinations of exporters in competition with those of other nations. This measure passed the House in the recent session of Congress. It is slated for early reconsideration by the next Congress, and there is good reason to expect its enactment.

Its value has been repeatedly urged by the American Manufacturers Export Association, an organization that includes nearly seven hundred representative export manufacturers and concerns itself solely with the fostering of foreign trade as the means of increasing our national prosperity and strengthening our international relations. The efforts of the association have already been sought and appreciated by foreign Governments as well as our own.

The association is now undertaking to interest the general business public in foreign trade—particularly the small factory owners, who too often have the attitude that international commerce is not their affair. Upon their attitude depends in large measure whether America will rise to the great opportunity that is now presented.

BARON MEGATA—HEAD OF THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMISSION FROM JAPAN
© 1917 by Harris.

MORE SOFT COAL MINED.

So much is being said about the shortage of bituminous coal and the general public realizes so little the important gains in output made over all previous records by the operators under trying conditions last summer that the statement just issued by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, of production in 1917 compared with 1916 is particularly timely.

In commenting on this report, prepared by the statisticians of the Geological Survey, Director George Otis Smith points out that the shortage is not due to the failure of the soft coal mines to produce more coal than in the past, for the country on September 1 was about a month ahead of last year in output and is expected to finish the year with an increase of 10 per cent. over 1916, the banner year, and 25 per cent. over 1915.

The tremendous increase in manufacturing and transportation activity this year has created a demand for soft coal in excess of any [illegible] an increase in demand that [illegible] to measure in terms of tons, [illegible] is certainly more than the [illegible] by which production has [illegible]

To meet this demand the [illegible] been producing soft coal [illegible] never before equalled. In the [illegible] week of July, 1917, the average [illegible] production was more than [illegible] tons, the highest point yet [illegible] in the middle of August the lowest rate for the summer, 1,638,000 tons, was recorded, and in the last week of September the daily rate was 1,823,000 tons.

In the first eight months of 1917 the output of soft coal was 363,500,000 tons, or 37,000,000 tons more than in the first eight months of 1916. In the same period shipments of anthracite increased 16 per cent. over those of 1916.